

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3, 5 and 7 to 11, and amend Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A direct thermal printer, comprising:

a direct thermal print head comprising an array of thermal energy sources directly radiantly coupled to a thermal print medium;

a thermal print medium drive mechanism holding the thermal print medium in noncontacting proximity to the direct thermal print head; and

~~a thermal energy modulator receiving thermal energy from the thermal energy source and transmitting modulated thermal energy to a thermal print medium; and~~

a controller coupled to the direct thermal print head and the thermal print medium drive mechanism, wherein the output power of the thermal energy sources are individually controllable by the controller.
2. (Currently amended) The direct thermal printer of claim 1, wherein the thermal energy sources are ~~is a~~ lasers.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The direct thermal printer of claim 1 is wherein the thermal energy sources are ~~is a~~ heater elements.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The direct thermal printer of claim 1 is wherein the thermal energy sources are ~~is~~ a radiant light devices.

7. to 11. (Canceled)